

AF FORM 112-2AR

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COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. A56-B-4611	(LEAVE BLANK) 139287
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Socio-Political Information HORST, WALTER (PW) KEETER		
AREA REPORTED ON VORKUTA, USSR	FROM (Agency) 7050th (USAFE)	
DATE OF REPORT 8 Mar 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Aug 45 - Jun 53	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) HALBERT H. ACKER, Lt Col, USAF	SOURCE 216050	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

A. Biographical Information:

1. SOURCE was born on 5 Jan 1906 at GRUENHEIDE (5544N/2112E), Krs KLAYPEDA (5543N/2109E). He attended school for eight (8) years and became a RR employee. He did not speak Russian well enough to be able of conversing in Russian.

2. SOURCE was arrested by the Soviets at KEBBELN (5532N/2127E), Krs KLAYPEDA, on 10 Oct 44. He was held prisoner on a farm near KEBBELN from Oct 44 to Dec 44, doing farm work. He then was transported to KAUNAS (5454N/2355E), where he was confined in the town prison from Dec 44 to Aug 45. After his trial in Aug 45 he was taken to VORKUTA (6730N/6400E), where he was interned in forced labor camp # 7 from Aug 45 to Jun 53, working as a carpenter inside his enclosure. He was interned in a PW camp of unknown number at TAPLAU (5439N/2105E) from Jun 53 to Dec 53, during which period he did not work due to his bad physical condition. During his time at VORKUTA SOURCE had contact only with German prisoners and two (2) Americans who spoke a little German.

a. SOURCE had been tried and sentenced for passive war crimes with ten (10) years of hard labor, because, while an employee of the German REICHSBAHN (State RR) in E Prussia during WW II he did not commit sabotage, thus enabling freight trains with ammunition to get through to the Soviet Union. SOURCE'S trial lasted about five (5) minutes. One (1) day early in Aug 45 he was led into a small room where a Soviet officer and a female interpreter were present. Five (5) Germans, including SOURCE, were in this room. They had to stand in front of the officer while he read something in Russian. After he finished the prisoners had to sign a sheet of paper from which the officer had read. After SOURCE had signed one (1) of his fellow PWs asked him why he did not look more sad than before, since he just had been sentenced to ten (10) years deportation. SOURCE stated that, when the repatriations of prisoners from the district of VORKUTA started, there was no system obvious. He knew of fellow prisoners who had been sentenced from five (5) to twenty five (25) years to life-time, and even with death penalty which was changed to "Three (3) times twenty-five (25) years", who went home in 53.

3. SOURCE was cooperative throughout the interview. He gave a very good impression. He seemed to be reliable and gave all answers in a calm and objective manner. He never tried to hide uncertainty by becoming talkative and frankly admitted when a question went beyond his knowledgeability. It is the opinion of this interviewer that the info supplied by SOURCE may be relied upon.

E. Forced Labor Camps:

24. Jul or Aug 1950 SOURCE met an American in his camp at VORKUTA. SOURCE often talked to him because this man spoke German fairly well. From these conversations SOURCE learned the following:

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The name of the American was Franz EISENHOWER (SOURCE'S phonetic spelling), he was about fifty (50) years old, 180 cm tall, had blonde-white hair and a mustache, and was very healthy looking. He worked in the coal shaft # 40 in Jun 53. Back home he owned a ranch and bred horses and cattle. SOURCE believed to remember TEXAS. EISENHOWER'S mother went to VIENNA (5056N/1135E) in the first half of 1950. Shortly after she arrived there EISENHOWER received a telegram in the States stating that his mother fell ill and that she expected him and her daughter to visit VIENNA. When EISENHOWER and his sister got off the four (4) engine plane at VIENNA their papers were checked by Soviet officials, who became excited when reading their names, claiming that they must be relatives of General EISENHOWER. EISENHOWER and his sister were arrested immediately in spite of their protests and were taken away in two (2) different cars. EISENHOWER never again heard of his sister. EISENHOWER also had told SOURCE that his grandfather was a German. SOURCE did not remember whether he went to the USA from Germany or Austria.

Late in 1951 SOURCE met another American the name of whom he could not recall. This man also spoke German fairly well. From him SOURCE learned that he had been an officer in W-G rmany. While on duty near the zone-border he had been kidnapped by Soviets who threw a bag over his head, dragged him into their car, and drove him to E-Germany, from where he was sent to VORKUTA. In Jun 53 this man was in the convalescence camp # 14. He was about forty (40) years old, skinny, about 175 cm tall, had dark-blonde hair, and a dislocated chin which slightly hindered him when talking. SOURCE knew from fellow prisoners whom he met during the time at VORKUTA that in this area there were at least seventy (70) Americans, also several British nationals, some of them captured in KOREA.

25. In 1952 the general treatment of the forced laborers became more humane. Medical treatment was improved. SOURCE illustrated this by stating, that from 45 to 49 about three (3) prisoners of every 1,000 died per day, whereas in 52 about one (1) prisoner of every 1,000 died within three (3) months. In 52 the political prisoners were segregated from the criminals. The guards changed their blue shoulder-boards to red. SOURCE knew from fellow prisoners that N of VORKUTA in the area of KALMAYUR (SOURCE'S phonetic spelling, coordinates unknown), another forced labor district was established in 53. It was also a coal area. SOURCE could not locate it on any map. On the island of NOVAYA ZEMLYA (7400N/5700E) an unknown number of forced labor camps existed. The prisoners worked in gold, nickel and copper mines.

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